



# NEWS RELEASE

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**IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

February 28, 1994

## BOSNIA NO-FLY ZONE POLICY

United Nations Security Council Resolution 816 bans unauthorized flights by all fixed-wing and rotary-wing aircraft in the airspace of the Republic of Bosnia-Herzegovina and authorizes all necessary measures to ensure compliance with this ban. The resolution, passed March 31, 1993, was in response to the bombing of towns in the Republic of Bosnia-Herzegovina.

Since April 1993, NATO's Operation Deny Flight has been highly successful in preventing air operations by the warring factions in Bosnia. The specific missions of Operation Deny Flight are to conduct aerial monitoring and enforce UNSCR 816, provide protective air cover for UNPROFOR under UNSCR 836, and be ready for air strikes in support of humanitarian relief operations and the protection of designated safe areas, as authorized by the North Atlantic Council in coordination with the UN.

As of February 27, 1994, 11,881 fighter, tanker and NATO airborne early warning sorties had been flown in Operation Deny Flight. Aircraft from 5 NATO nations -- France, The Netherlands, Turkey, the United Kingdom, and the United States -- participate in this NATO operation.

This morning near Banja Luka, Bosnia-Herzegovina, U.S. F-16 aircraft, operating as part of NATO's Operation Deny Flight, shot down four Galeb ground attack aircraft which were violating the United Nations established "No Fly" zone. This was a particularly blatant violation in as much as the Galeb aircraft were reported by the F-16 pilots to be conducting a bombing run. These aircraft were detected and given two "land or be engaged" orders. The NATO aircraft fired air-to-air missiles destroying four of the six detected Galeb aircraft. The two remaining aircraft quickly departed Bosnian air space and were not pursued.

Secretary of Defense William J. Perry said today, "The enforcement of this 'No Fly' zone was underscored today when two U.S. Air Force F-16's operating under NATO command shot down four Galeb fixed-wing aircraft. This action demonstrates the resolve of NATO and the U.S. to ensure that the war in Bosnia does not spread to the air, and, in particular, does not revert to the aerial bombardment of civilians."

Secretary Perry also said, "This incident and the threat of future enforcement of the UN's 'No Fly' mandate emphasize the need to accelerate diplomatic efforts to find a negotiated peace settlement in Bosnia."

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